



U.S. General Services Administration



PBS Customer Forum
Navigating the New Workplace
Diversity Lens: Designing for Inclusion
July 1, 2021/12:00 EST

DESIGNING FOR INCLUSION

CREATING AN ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE AROUND DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION



Agenda

- 01** Kimberly Dowdell | Introduction
- 02** Kimberly Dowdell | External Outreach
- 03** Damon Sheppard | Internal Outreach
- 04** Damon Sheppard | Tracking Engagement
- 05** Aman Krishan & Caitlin Youngster | Design for Equity

01

KIMBERLY DOWDELL

Introduction

1,600

EMPLOYEES

FOUNDED

1955

23

OFFICES

GREEN BUILDING A/E FIRMS AS
RANKED BY ENR

#1

2019

FAST COMPANY MOST INNOVATIVE
ARCHITECTURE FIRMS

23 Offices Worldwide



- Atlanta
- Beijing
- Calgary
- Chicago
- Columbus
- Dallas
- Dubai
- Hong Kong
- Houston
- Kansas City
- London
- Los Angeles
- Mumbai
- New York
- Ottawa
- Philadelphia
- San Francisco
- Seattle
- Shanghai
- St. Louis
- Tampa
- Toronto
- Washington, D.C.



CO-CHAIR PARTNERSHIP



SHIVA MENDEZ

Sponsored Initiatives:
Bi-annual Survey
HOK perspectives

Sponsored Offices:
San Francisco/Seattle
Los Angeles
Texas (Dallas/Houston)
Asia Pacific
Middle East



DAMON SHEPPARD

Sponsored Initiatives:
HOK Mentoring
ACE Mentoring

Sponsored Offices:
Washington DC/Tampa/Atlanta
New York/Philadelphia
Canada (Toronto/Ottawa)
London



KIMBERLY DOWDELL

Sponsored Initiatives:
HOK Tapestry
NOMA

Sponsored Offices:
Chicago/Columbus
St. Louis
Kansas City
Experience Design
Corporate Staff

DAC
MEMBERS
2021



KATHERINE
ANTARIKSO



JAVIER
BUSCAGLIA-PESQUERA



SANJEEV COELHO



GABRIELA CUERO



TABITHA DARKO



KIMBERLY DOWDELL



CRYSTAL HAINES



DANIEL HAJJAR



JAN HARMON



GENNY HYATT



STELLA JIN



SUSAN
KLUMPP-WILLIAMS



AMAN KRISHAN



BRAD LIEBMAN



Z LISENBEE



SHIVA MENDEZ



STEPHANIE
MILLER



SAMUEL ROJAS



AMI SHAH



DAMON SHEPPARD

02

KIMBERLY DOWDELL
External Outreach



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS



NOMA's mission, rooted in a rich legacy of activism, is to empower our local chapters and membership to foster justice and equity in communities of color through outreach, community advocacy, professional development and design excellence.



TAPESTRY

EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS

1. Project Partnership Database
2. Diversity Partnership Capacity Building
3. Firmwide DEI Initiative (Externally Focused)
4. Expanded Marketing Opportunities





HOK recognizes the value and importance of contributing to our local communities and the collective positive impact we can have on our world. Each of the firm's local offices is actively involved in supporting charitable and community-based organizations and events. Giving back is our way to connect our people to each other and to their communities.





ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING

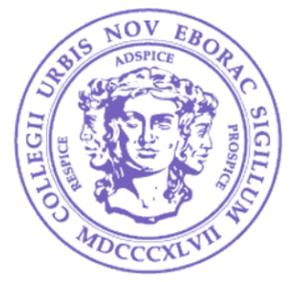
Founded in 1994, the ACE Mentor Program of America (ACE) is a free, award-winning, afterschool program designed to attract high school students into pursuing careers in the Architecture, Construction and Engineering industry, including skilled trades. ACE is a federation of more than 70 affiliates (chapters), operating in 37 states and largely based in metropolitan areas.



SCHOLARSHIP

DIVERSITY x DESIGN

1. Scholarship Team Developed Guidelines
2. \$10k From 8 RBUs
3. Goal to Establish Long Lasting Relationships



HOWARD
UNIVERSITY

KU



CAL POLY

PRAIRIE VIEW
A&M UNIVERSITY



CalPolyPomona



TUSKEGEE
UNIVERSITY



03

DAMON SHEPPARD

Internal Outreach

An orange downward-pointing triangle is located at the top center of the slide.

HOK GLOBAL PRIORITIES FOR MENTORING

01

Retain valued employees

02

Improve leadership and
managerial skills

03

Enhance career development

04

Facilitate intra-office and inter-
office dialogue and exchange

05

Promote diversity and
opportunity

MENTORING PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

11

Global HOK Offices with Active Mentoring Programs



589

Total Participants

ASIA PACIFIC	12
CHICAGO	39
DALLAS	17
HOUSTON	95
KANSAS CITY	35
LONDON	73
LOS ANGELES	40
NORTHEAST	80
SAINT LOUIS	75
SAN FRANCISCO	80
WASHINGTON DC	43

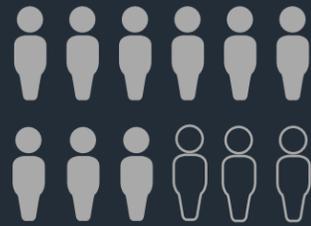
*Note: Results based on the 2021 Firmwide Mentoring Survey.
Statistics include all global HOK Offices with active mentoring programs.*



MENTORING PROGRAM STRUCTURE

9

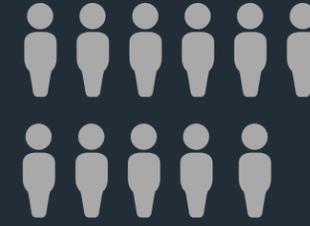
OFFICES



Participated in
**PAIRS
MENTORING**

11

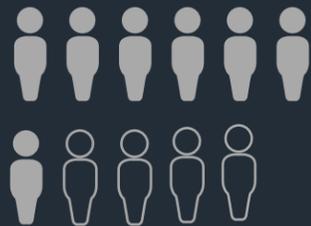
OFFICES



Participated in
**INTER-
DISCIPLINARY
MENTORING**

7

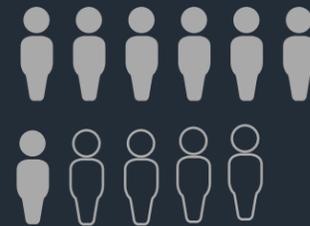
OFFICES



Participated in
**CROSS-OFFICE
MENTORING**

7

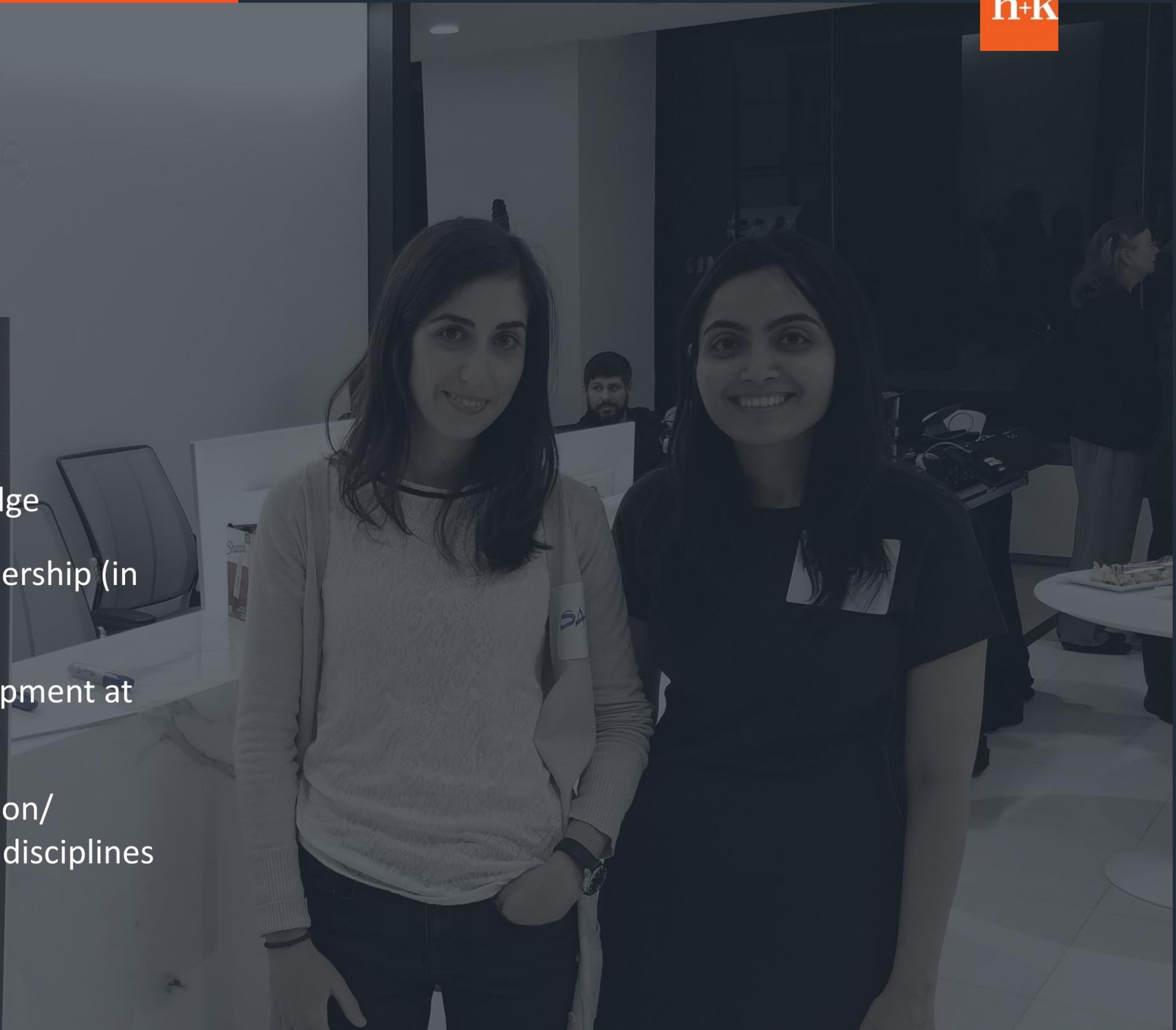
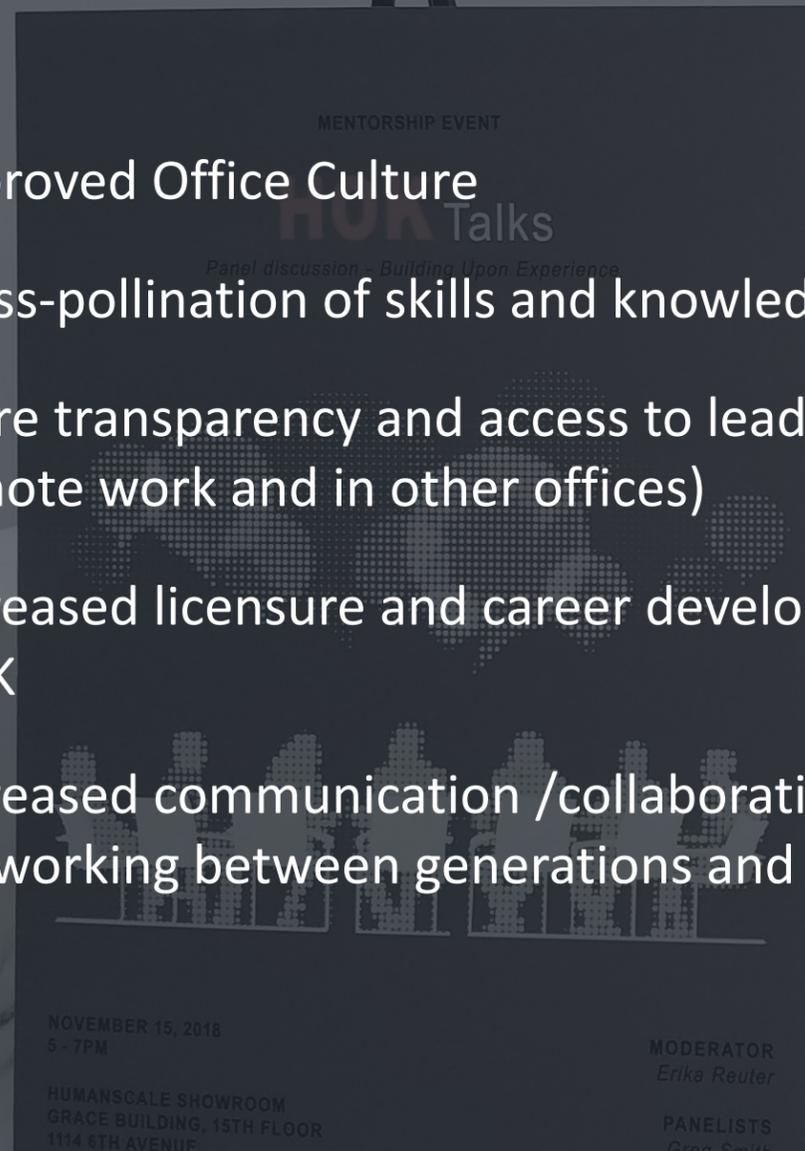
OFFICES



Participated in
**ANNUAL
PERFORMANCE
REVIEW PROCESS**

QUALITATIVE OUTCOMES OF MENTORING

1. Improved Office Culture
2. Cross-pollination of skills and knowledge
3. More transparency and access to leadership (in remote work and in other offices)
4. Increased licensure and career development at HOK
5. Increased communication /collaboration/ networking between generations and disciplines



HOK PERSPECTIVES
SHOWCASING DIVERSE STORIES



HOK CULTURES
INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE



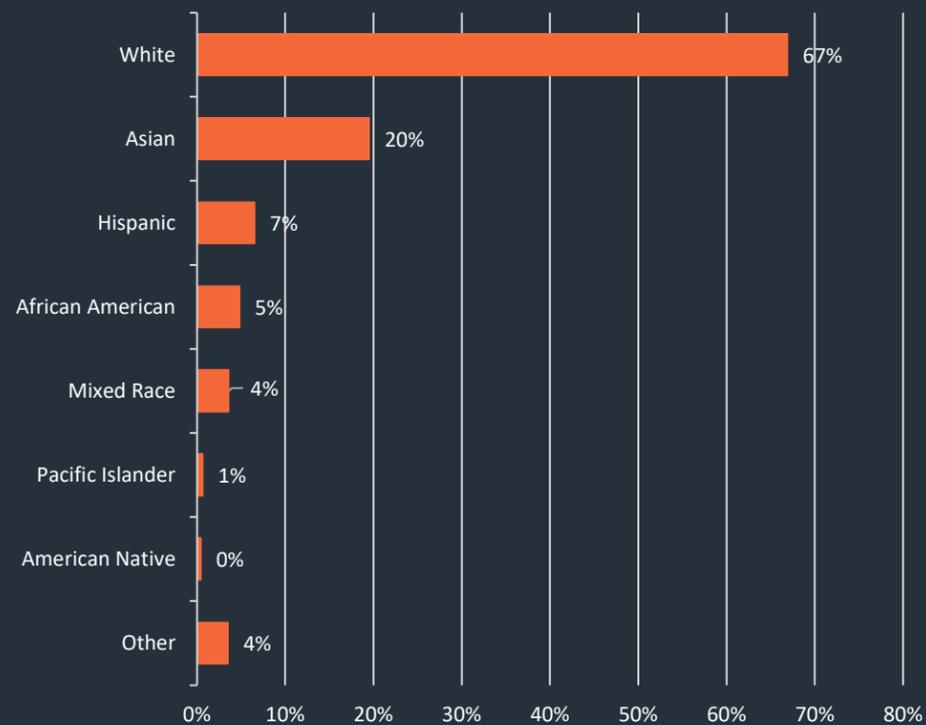
04

DAMON SHEPPARD
Tracking Engagement

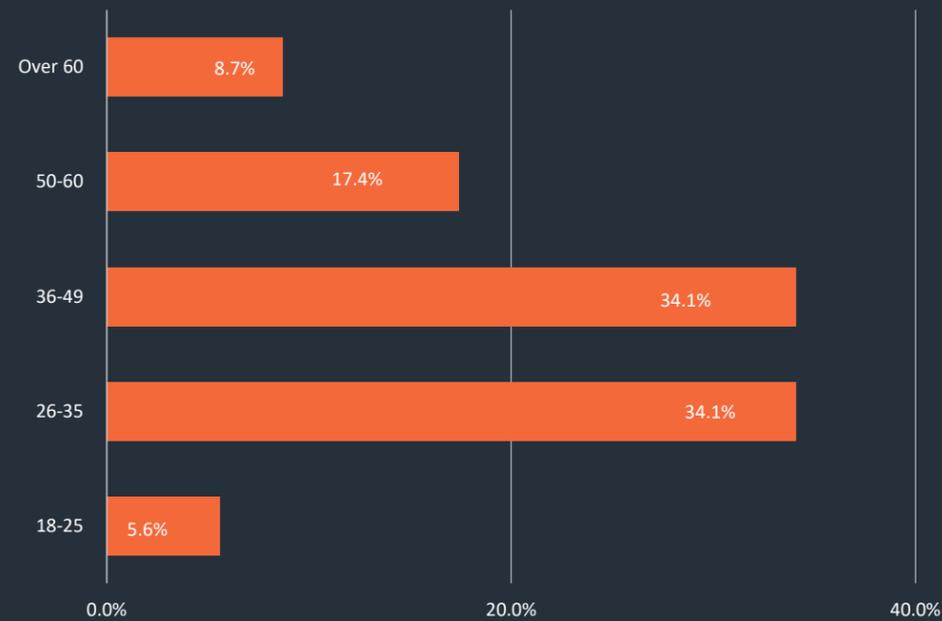
HOK CAREER & OPPORTUNITY SURVEY: DEMOGRAPHICS

83% RESPONSE RATE

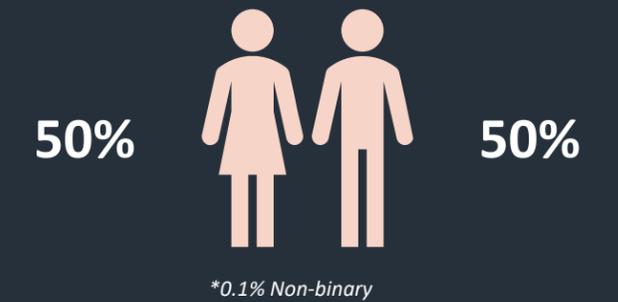
ETHNICITY



AGE



GENDER*



LGBTQIA





HOK CAREER & OPPORTUNITY SURVEY:
WHAT WE ASK

1

STRONGLY
DISAGREE

5

STRONGLY AGREE

- HOK values the work I do
- HOK supports me in achieving my goals
- My contributions are recognized at HOK
- Past recognition has translated into tangible benefits to my career at HOK
- I see a clear career path for me at HOK
- My salary/wage reflects the value I add
- My incentive compensation reflects my individual performance
- Having a family does not interfere with my opportunities at work

THE HOK
CHALLENGE

PROGRESS TOWARDS A MORE

DIVERSE

LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

5 YEAR TARGETS
ESTABLISHED IN 2015

1. Women and Minority Shareholders
2. Women and minority Principal/Sr. Principals
3. Voluntary Turnover as measure for staff engagement and retention efforts
4. Expansion of tracked positions and advancing the goals for 2025



05

AMAN KRISHAN & CAITLIN YOUNGSTER

Designing for Equity



Designing for Equity

Northeast DAC Initiative



BUILDINGS AND SPACES WE DESIGN IMPACT
EVERYONE

A group of diverse people are gathered in a community meeting room. They are sitting on wooden crates and looking at various posters and informational materials on the wall. The room is filled with people of different ages and ethnicities, engaged in conversation and looking at the displays. The text "DIVERSE TEAMS BRING DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES" is overlaid on the image in white and orange. The word "TEAMS" is highlighted in orange, while the rest of the text is white. The background shows a community meeting with people sitting on crates, looking at posters on the wall. One poster says "An Urban Operating System". Other posters include "WE ARE 400,000+ WE ARE BUILDING POWER!", "COMPOST TODAY", and "SMALL MANU".

DIVERSE **TEAMS** BRING DIVERSE
PERSPECTIVES

WE CAN LEAD THE INDUSTRY IN
DESIGNING FOR EQUITY



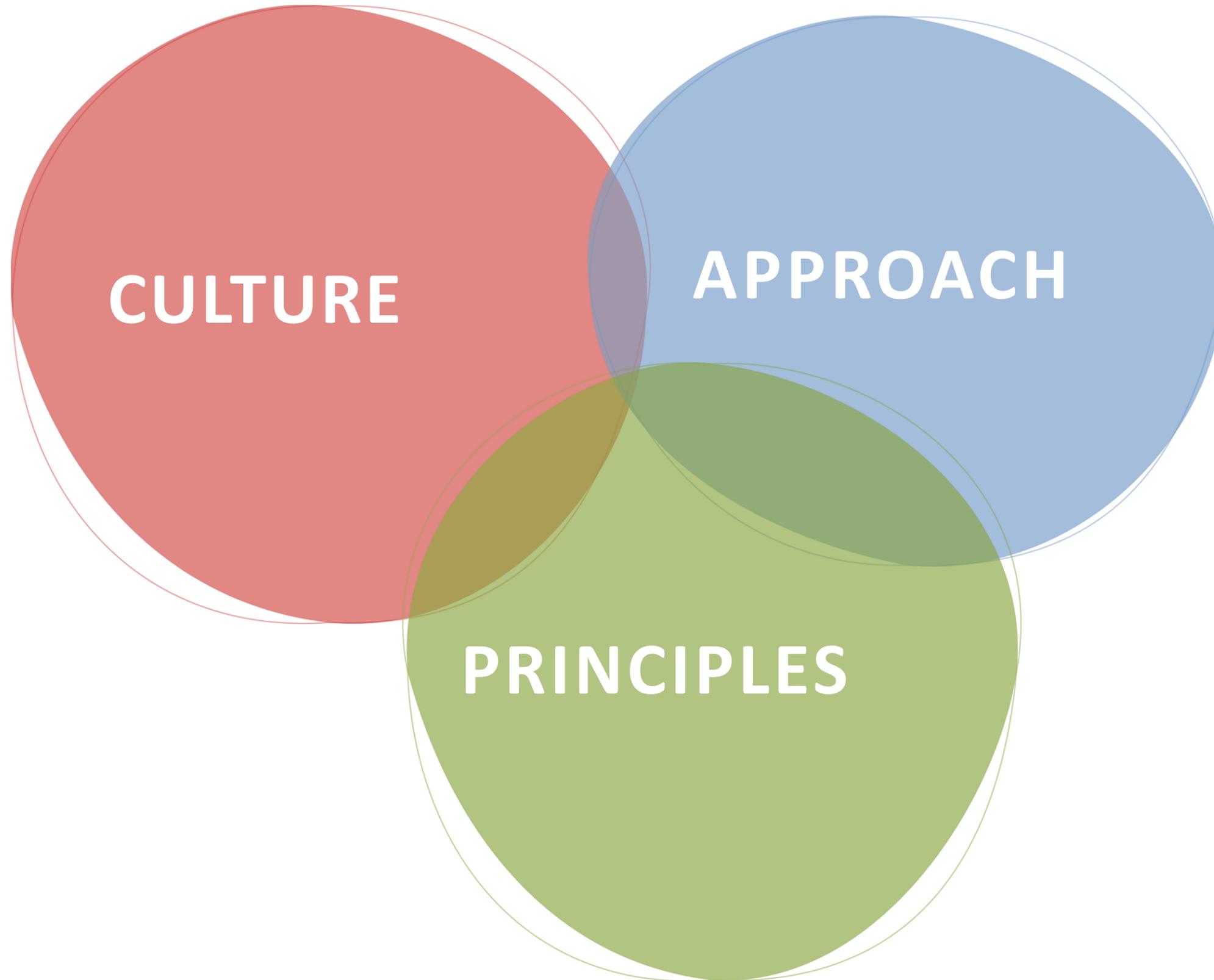
HOW CAN HOK DESIGN FOR EQUITY?

VISION

Design buildings and spaces where all human needs are met in an **equitable and sustainable manner**

Foster communities where all people have **equal access to shelter, health and nature**

Design spaces that **enrich and inspire** all people



CULTURE

APPROACH

PRINCIPLES

A top-down view of a person with long dark hair, wearing a light-colored sweater, sitting at a desk. They are looking down at a large sheet of architectural blueprints spread out on the desk. The blueprints show various floor plans and technical drawings. To the left of the person is a white coffee cup. Two wooden rulers are placed on the desk, one on the left and one on the right. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter.

HOK projects must incorporate EQUITABLE DESIGN PRINCIPLES and identify physical features to support them



Access

Providing equitable spaces, resources, opportunities and experience for the community

Community

A group of people with diverse characteristics but are linked with social ties (defined by nih.gov)

Diversity

Providing a space for multiple perspectives and thoughts to be included into process. Diversity can be shaped by multiple factors including race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual identity, ability/disability and location.

Equity

Fairness and justice, allowing all people to have access and opportunity that should be leveraged to the needs of the people. Equality does not equal equity.

Inclusion

Providing the same level of respect, treatment and access to all people regardless of background. Accounting for a diversity of thoughts and perspectives to be included in the process.

Social Inequality

The difference in environmental resources and social opportunities between privileged and disadvantaged communities.



IMAGE SOURCE: Living Breakwaters, SCAPE



IMAGE SOURCE: LA Storefronts, LA Más



IMAGE SOURCE: HOK



Community Empowerment

Integrate community history
and provide community
benefits



Connections

Connect to Existing Infrastructure &
Community Assets

Conserve resources, build and improve upon
what is already there



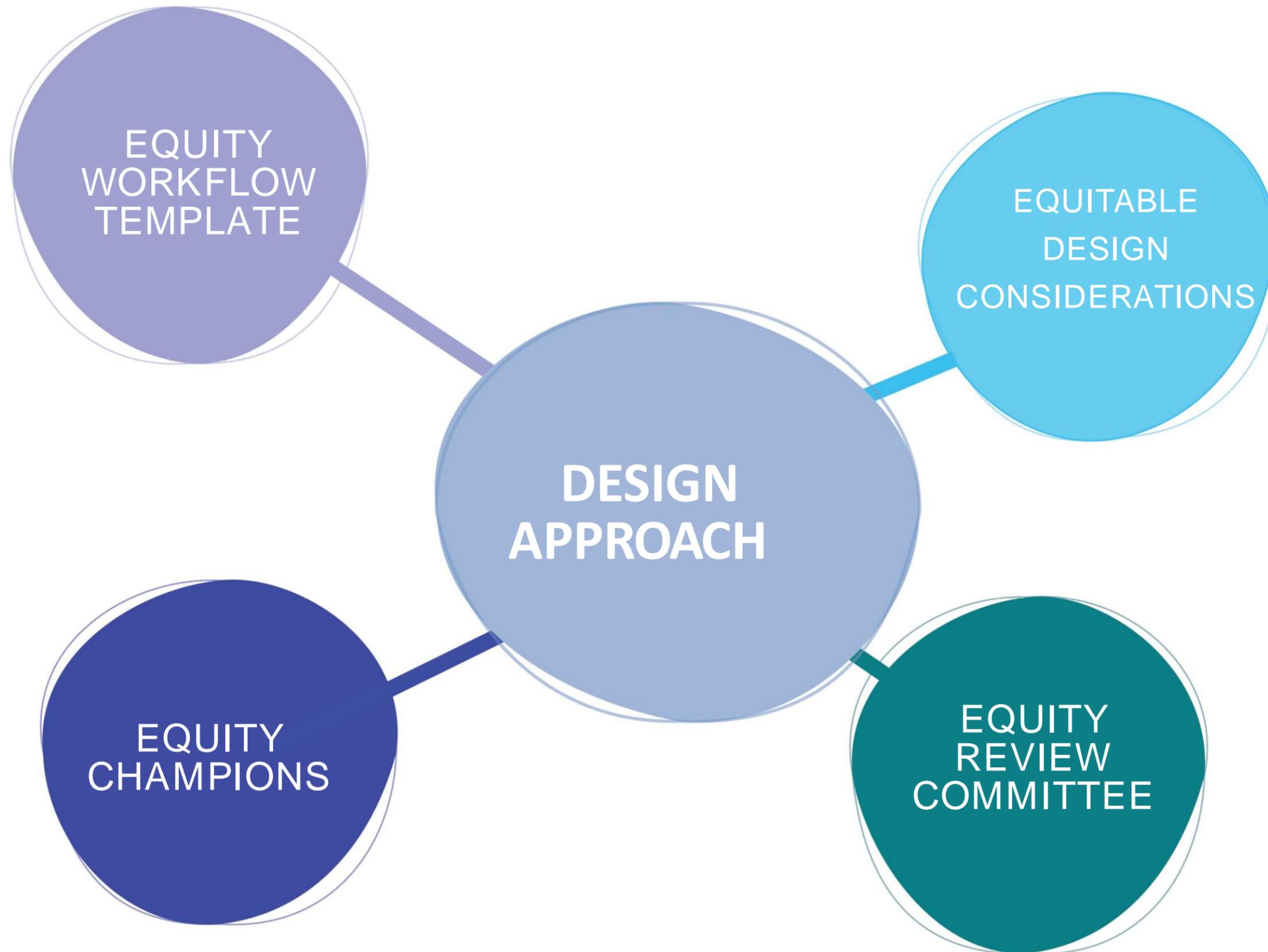
Promote Health & Wellness

Provide access to nature and recreation
Design healthy buildings & environments



Equitable Access

Remove visual, physical and social barriers
to access

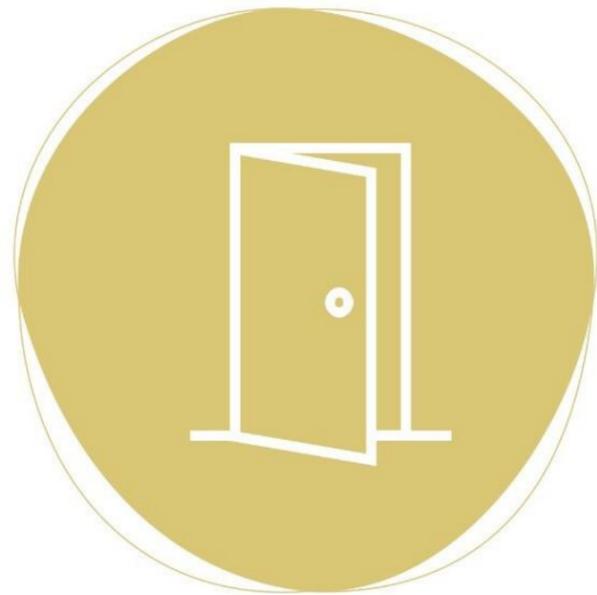




**Community
Empowerment**



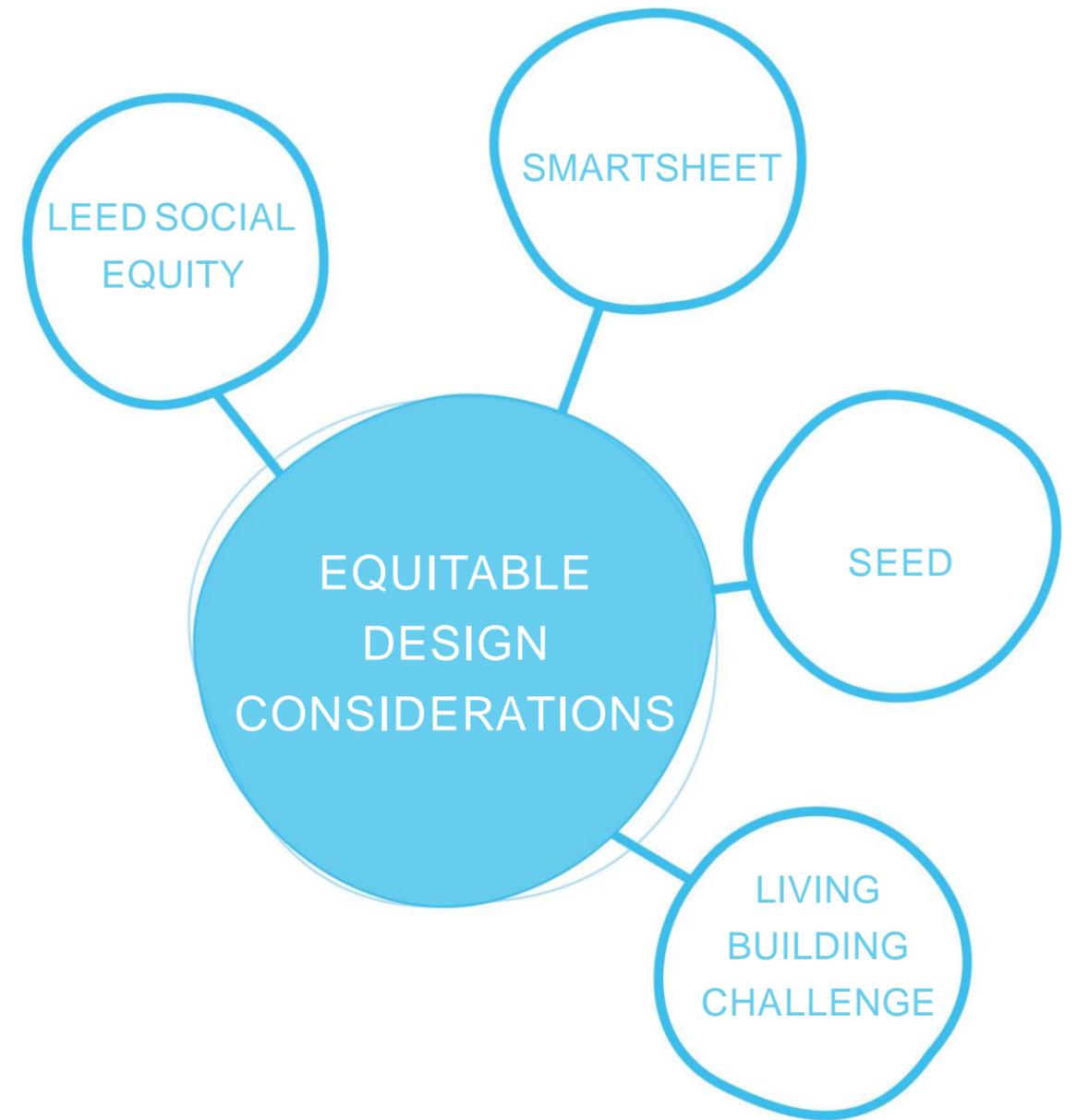
Health & Wellness



Equitable Access



**Connections to Existing
Infrastructure & Community**





Equitable Access

Public Wi-Fi/ Charging Station/
Public Phone/ Information Stations

Provide an equitable experience for all occupants of a space. Including accessible pathways, access to natural light and views, and commensurate work environments

Provide the public with access to green space

Provide passive outdoor space for quiet reflection



Connect to Existing Infrastructure

Conserve natural resources by selecting infill and brownfield sites

Select sites that are well connected via public transit, trails, or in walkable districts

Integrate with surroundings and avoid creating dead zones typical with loading zones and parking

Connect to adjacent pathways and trails



Community Empowerment

Provide community services, outreach programs, and wellness programs

Avoid "dead zones" in the layout of the site design

Create displays, exhibits or interactive elements for public viewing

Plan for Community Review and engagement at each step of the design process



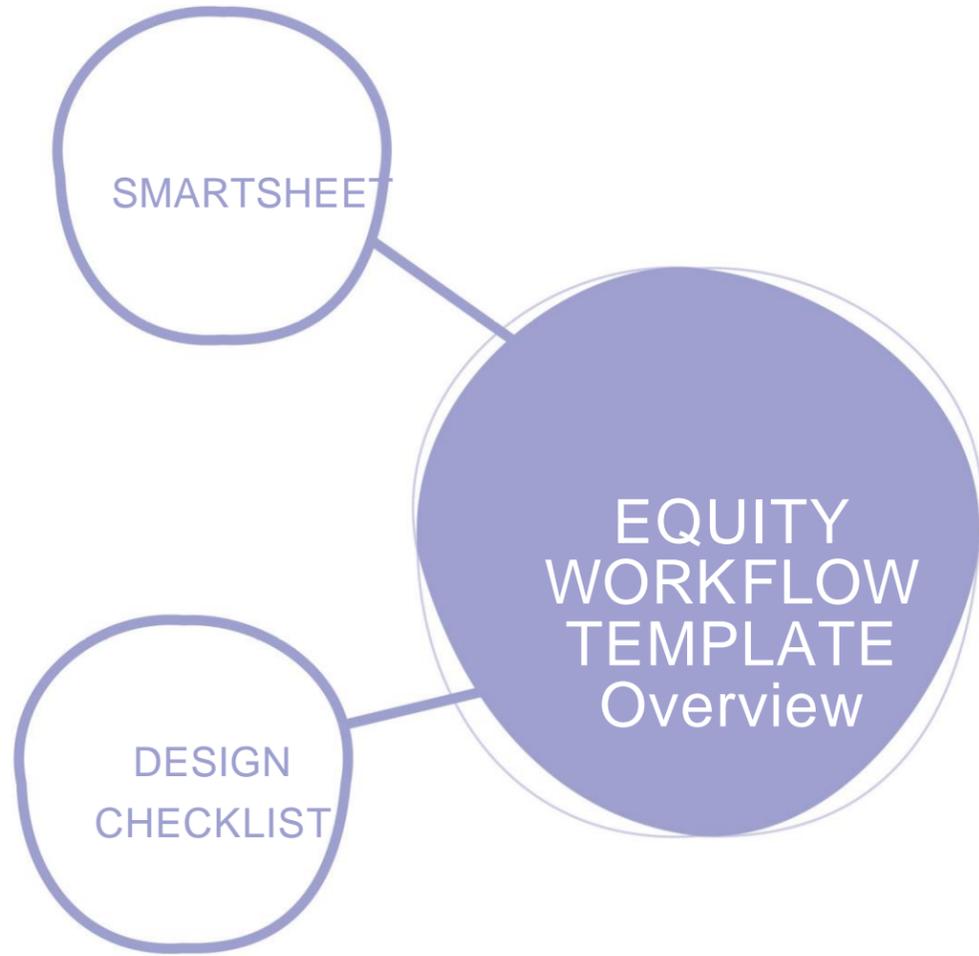
Health & Wellness

Incorporate trees and planting to reduce heat island effect and contribute to relaxing environments

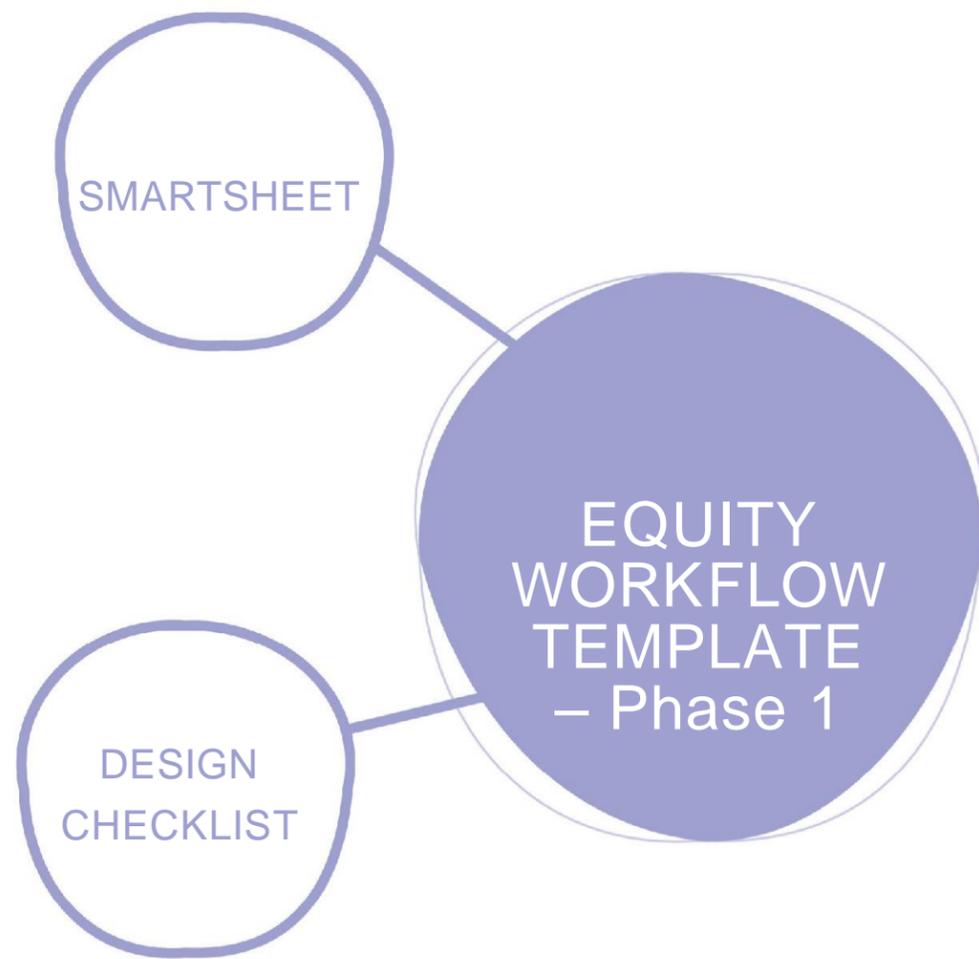
Provide comfortable spaces that occupants can control with shading, ventilation, or lighting controls

Provide active outdoor space for gathering to promote wellness in the community

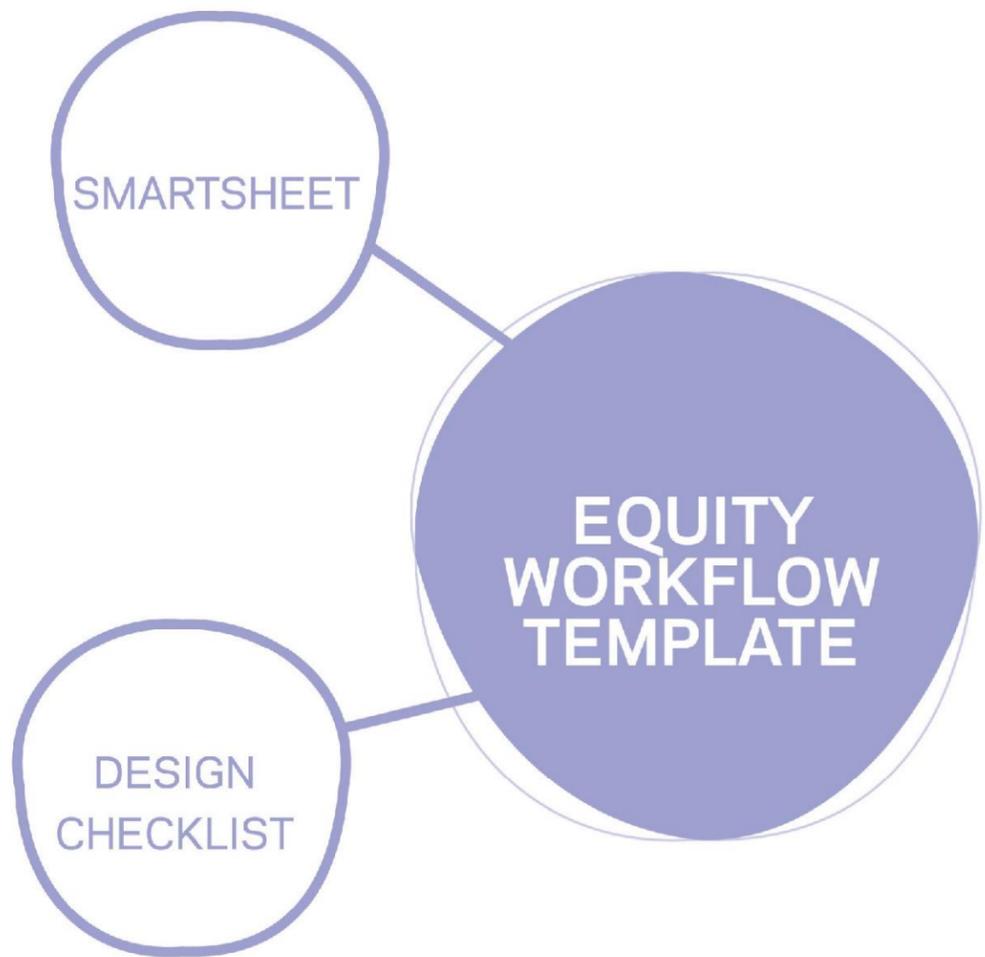
Avoid construction waste and design for disassembly



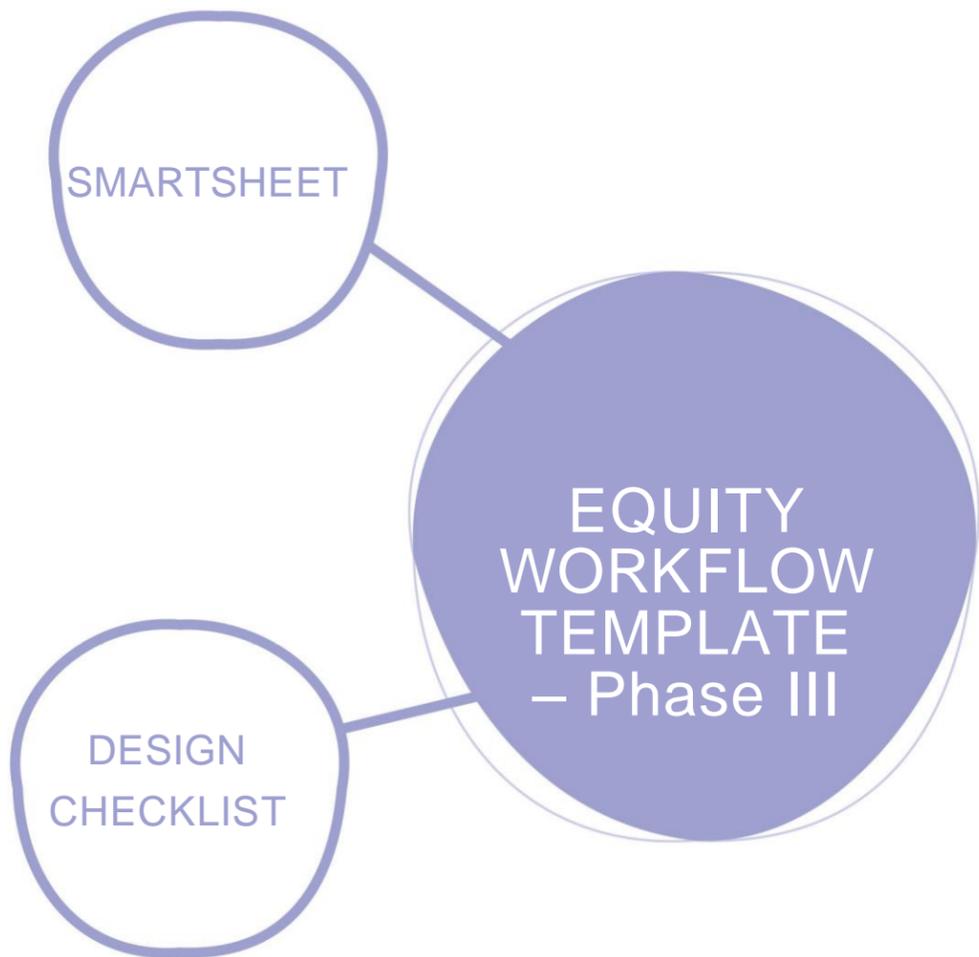
Programming / Planning / Concept	✓	Set Equity Goals with the Entire Project Team	Review HOK Equitable Design Handbook, LEED social equity points and SEED (Social Economic Environmental Design) and identify key definitions and goals that will be applicable to the project, scale and type. These goals should be made in partnership with HOK Equitable Committee.
	✓	Community Outreach through Relationships with Community Stakeholders	HOK projects should start with and continue with community engagement. Issues and concerns raised by the community should be folded into the design. Community leaders should be identified as part of this information gathering process.
	✓	Identify Expanded User Groups	Expand the definition of users beyond those identified by the client. Encourage more diversity of user voices, including transient users of the project and those who will not use the project necessarily, but will be affected by it nonetheless.
	✓	Onboard Community Development Consultant	For certain projects, HOK may consider hiring a community design consultant, local to the project region, to facilitate items such as community engagement, workshops, community development and cultural planning.
	✓	Create HOK Equitable Review Committee	Creation of a committee to review projects for equitable parameters, in partnership with DAC and NE Design Board in potential collaboration with the Design Equity committee
Schematic Design / Design Development	✓	Site Culture and History Analysis	Site analysis should be beyond the physical aspects of sites but should consider the social and cultural attributes as well as the existing community networks and systems.
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	✓	Locate Opportunities to Incorporate Equity Features	Identify applicable program components and specific locations within the building and on the site that present an opportunity for equitable, community benefit.
	✓	SD Equity Design Review	At 50% SD, project to go before equity design review board for feedback. Utilize checklist and/or scoring matrix to gauge progress. Document for reference in future projects.
Post Design	✓	DD Design Review	At 50% DD, project to go before equity design review board for feedback. Utilize checklist and/or scoring matrix to gauge progress. Document for reference in future projects.
	✓	Post Occupancy Analysis and Lessons Learned	Feedback on design process both with design team and community as applicable in order to foster continued equity for future projects.
	✓	Foster Continued Outreach with Community	Establish a plan for continued engagement with community to ensure long term success of the project



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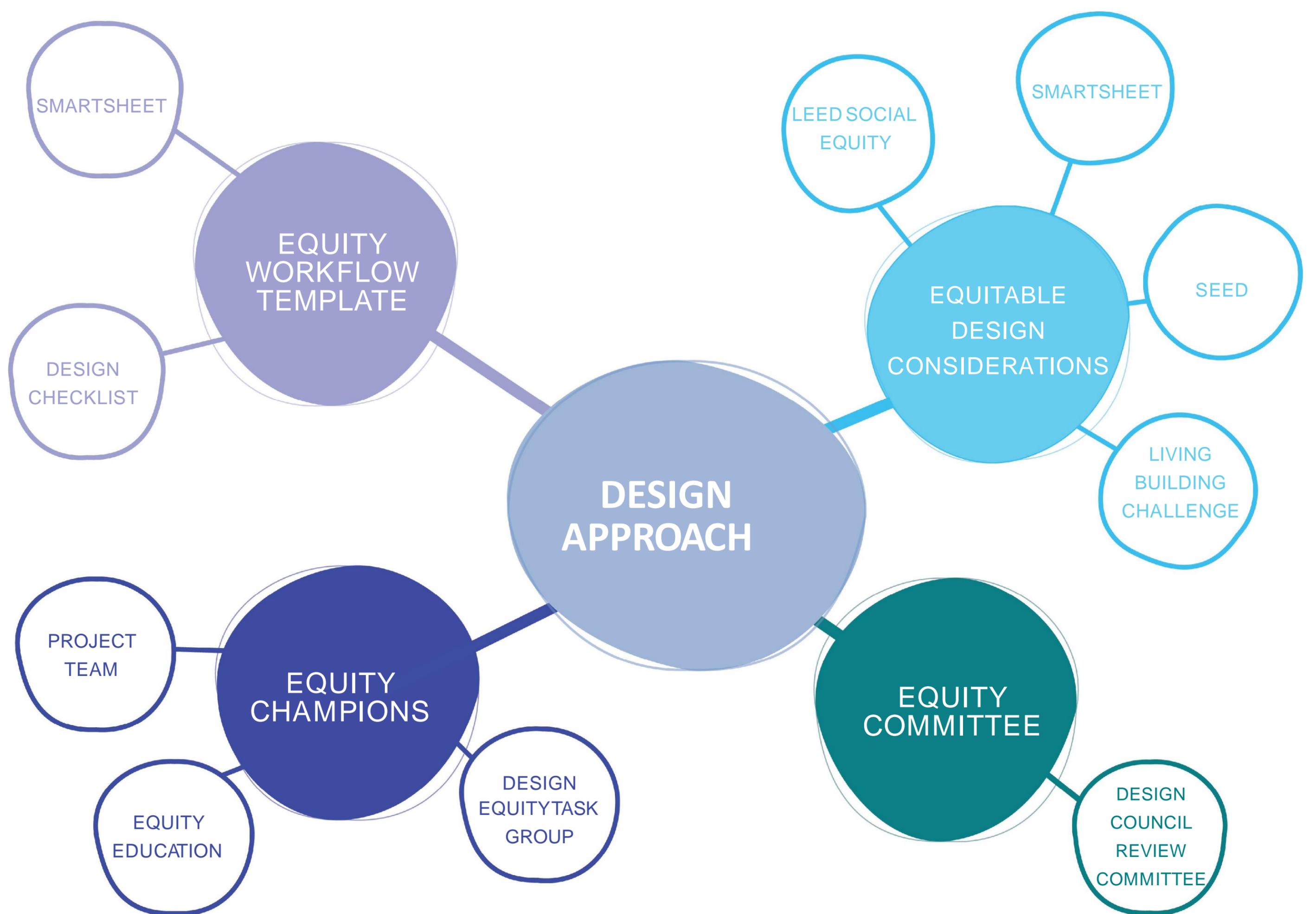
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EQUITY
REVIEW
COMMITTEE

DESIGN
COUNCIL
REVIEW
COMMITTEE





A public meeting or community engagement session. People are sitting on wooden crates on the floor, looking at various posters and documents on a wall. The posters include text like "WE ARE 400,000+", "WE ARE BUILDING POWER!", "COMPOST TODAY", "An Urban Operating System", and "COMMUNITY MESSAGE BOARD". The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter.

At HOK we want to incorporate practices based on EQUITY into our DESIGN CULTURE



IMAGE SOURCE: HOK

PIN-UPS

Foster a culture of Inclusive Design

- Institute firm wide office based Friday Pin-Ups where diverse groups can discuss equitable design
- Projects get feedback from a diverse group of people with equal voices
- Develop and emphasize a more equitable design language using impartial terminology



MAGE SOURCE: HOK



GUEST SPEAKERS

Inspiration Through Knowledge Sharing

Kimberly Dowdell – HOK DAC

Michellene Davis – RWJ

Rosa Sheng – Equity x Design/SmithGroup Tya

Wynn – Community Design Collaborative

Brian Murray – Shift Capital

Michael Murphy – Mass Design Group

**Deanna Van Buren – Designing Justice +
Designing Space**

Rosanne Haggerty – Community Solutions



Ideas

HOK VOICES
HOK VOICES

PUBLICATIONS
PUBLICATIONS

RESEARCH + INSIGHTS
RESEARCH + INSIGHTS



CENTRAL HUB FOR RESOURCES AND EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS

Knowledge Sharing and Information

- HUB Landing Page for Designing for Equity
- MS Teams Channel
- Link to Case Studies and Related Readings
- Equity Book Club

HOK IDEAS

- White Paper
- Publish pieces for the Ideas page on the HOK website

Designing for Equity

Equity is a core value for HOK and this platform provides an opportunity for people to gather more information and share their insights.

Past Speakers

Kim Dowdell



As the Director of Business Development, Kimberly is responsible for the development of clients for the Chicago studio and collaborating across multi-disciplinary markets to create comprehensive, strategic business development plans. With 13 years of experience in architecture, real estate and construction management, Kimberly brings an expertise in strategic planning, business development, public relations and professional services procurement.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

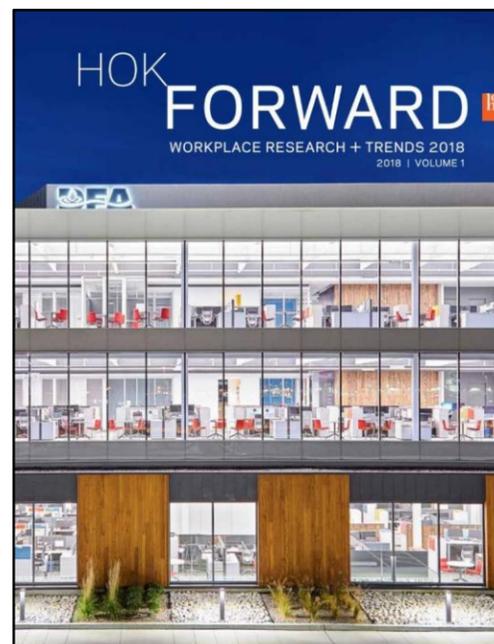
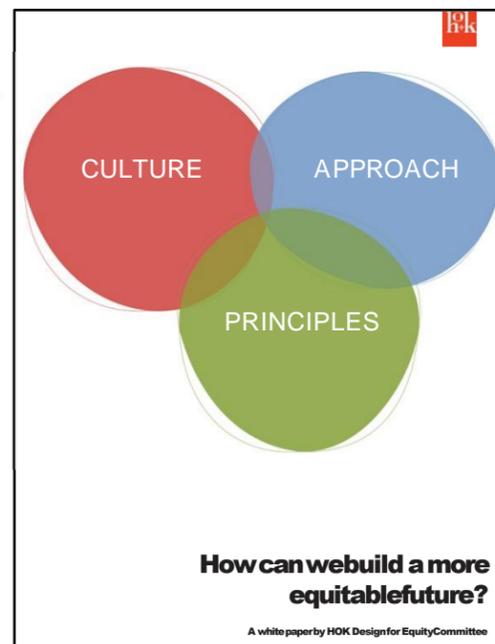




IMAGE SOURCE: HOK

PRO BONO PROJECTS

Outreach and Engagement

- Engage with projects that serve disadvantaged neighborhoods and/or organizations working on social justice issues
- Partner with HOK Impact



IMAGE SOURCE: HOK

What does **DESIGNING** **FOR EQUITY** look like?



COMMUNITY



CONNECTIONS



WELLNESS



ACCESS

CASE STUDIES

Project Name Soil Collection Memorial for Peace & Justice
Location Montgomery, AL, USA
Architect/Designer MASS Design Group



EXPERIENCE >>>

Project Name Sugar Hill Housing
Location New York City, NY, USA
Architect/Designer David Adjaye Associates



ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN >>>

Project Name Community Health and Literacy Center
Location South Philadelphia, PA, USA
Architect/Designer VSBA



COMMUNITY >>>

Project Name Dilworth Park
Location Philadelphia, PA, USA
Architect/Designer Kieran Timberlake and OLIN



URBAN PLANNING >>>



PROJECT: THE PHILADELPHIA MASJID
 LOCATION: PHILADELPHIA, PA
 IMAGE SOURCE: HOK



PROJECT: THE PHILADELPHIA MASJID
 LOCATION: PHILADELPHIA, PA
 IMAGE SOURCE: CHRIS KENDIG

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Integrate community history and provide community benefits

Sacred Places Civic Spaces: The Philadelphia Masjid and People's Emergency Center was a pro-bono project for the Community Design Collaborative with team members from HOK Philadelphia & NY

Awards:

- 2020 AIA Philadelphia – Paul Sehnert Award for Community Design



PROJECT: THE PHILADELPHIA MASJID
 LOCATION: PHILADELPHIA, PA
 IMAGE SOURCE: CHRIS KENDIG



PROJECT: THE PHILADELPHIA MASJID
 LOCATION: PHILADELPHIA, PA
 ARCHITECT / DESIGNER: HOK





PROJECT: THE PHILADELPHIA MASJID
LOCATION: PHILADELPHIA, PA
ARCHITECT / DESIGNER: HOK

CONNECTIONS at Work

Connect to Existing Infrastructure & Community Assets



PROJECT: THE PHILADELPHIA MASJID
LOCATION: PHILADELPHIA, PA
IMAGE SOURCE: CHRIS KENDIG



PROJECT: THE PHILADELPHIA MASJID
LOCATION: PHILADELPHIA, PA
IMAGE SOURCE: CHRIS KENDIG

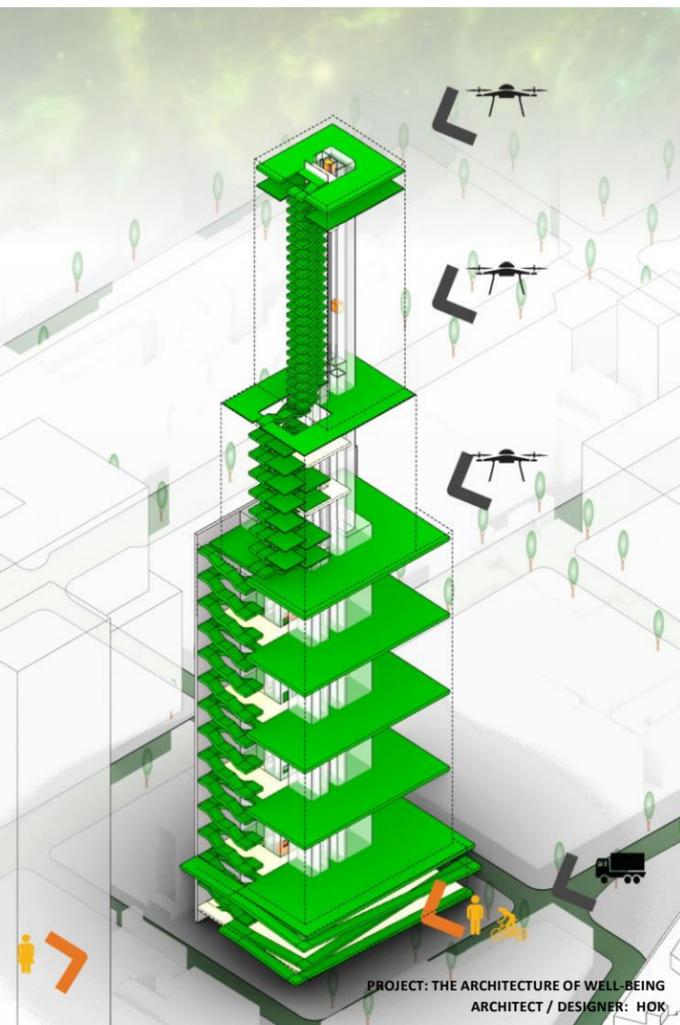




WELLNESS at Work

Promote Health & Wellness

Provide access to nature, recreation, active spaces





PROJECT: WORKDAY
ARCHITECT / DESIGNER: HOK



PROJECT: WORKDAY
ARCHITECT / DESIGNER: HOK

ACCESS at Work

Provide Equitable Access

Remove visual, physical and social barriers to access

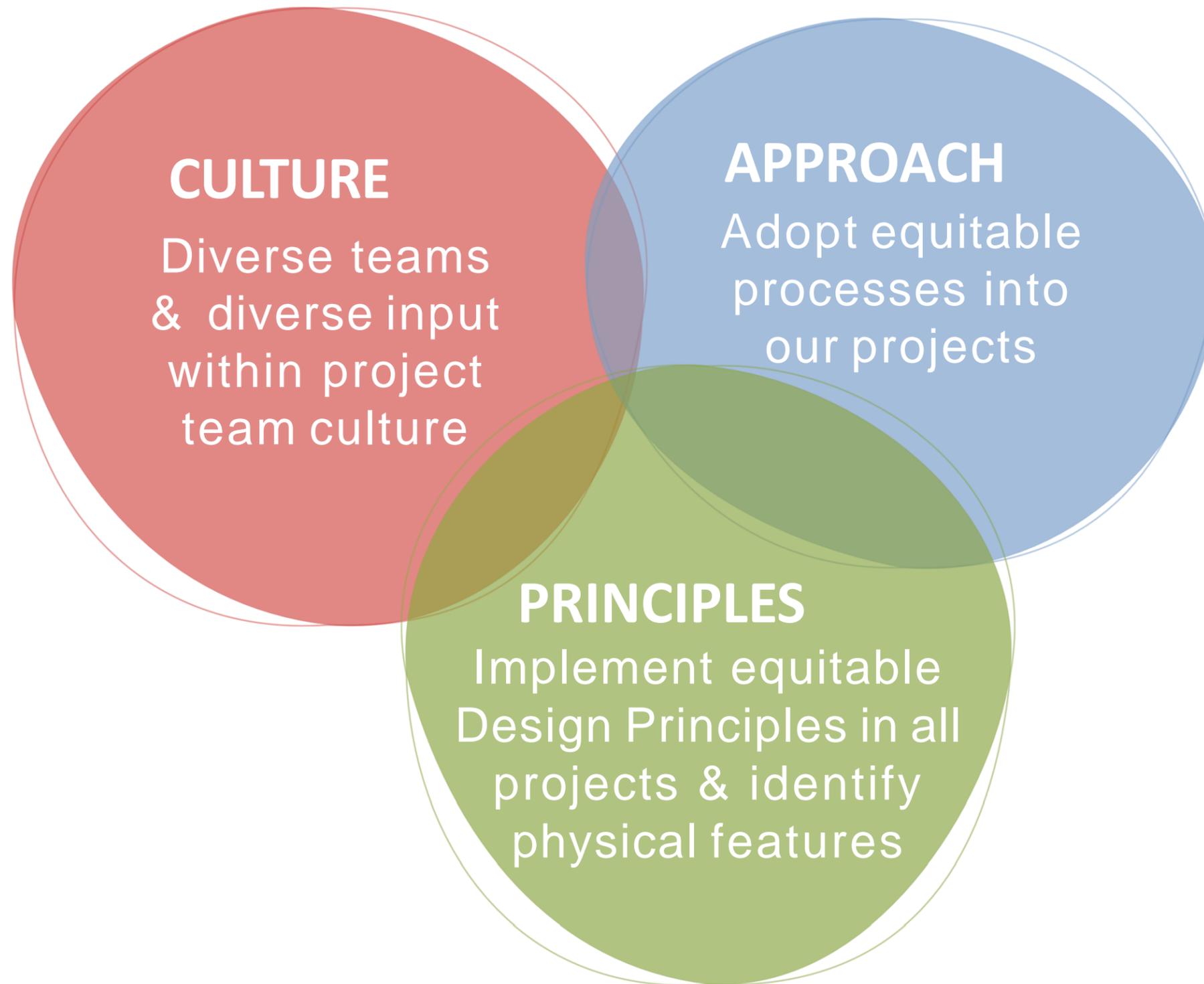


PROJECT: WORKDAY
ARCHITECT / DESIGNER: HOK



An aerial photograph of a city, likely Los Angeles, showing a large, multi-level highway interchange in the center. The surrounding area is densely packed with urban buildings, including several tall apartment or office buildings. The image is in grayscale, with the text overlaid in white and orange.

**What happens if we don't
Design for Equity?**



Monthly Guest Speaker Series

CULTURE
Diverse teams & diverse input within project team culture

Design Up Series (ProjectPin-Ups)

APPROACH
Adopt equitable processes into our projects

Equity Review Board Member sits on NE Design Council Reviews

PRINCIPLES
Implement equitable Design Principles in all projects & identify physical features

Identifying Pilot Projects for Implementation

Northeast Practice

Designing for Equity Task Group



Aman Krishan (Task Group Advisor)
Sr. Project Designer
New York



Bart Mangold
Architect
Philadelphia



Betsy Daniel
Urban Designer
New York



Caitlin Youngster
Architect
Philadelphia



Christine Myers
Sr. Interior Design Professional
Philadelphia



Hyeongmo Goo
Project Designer
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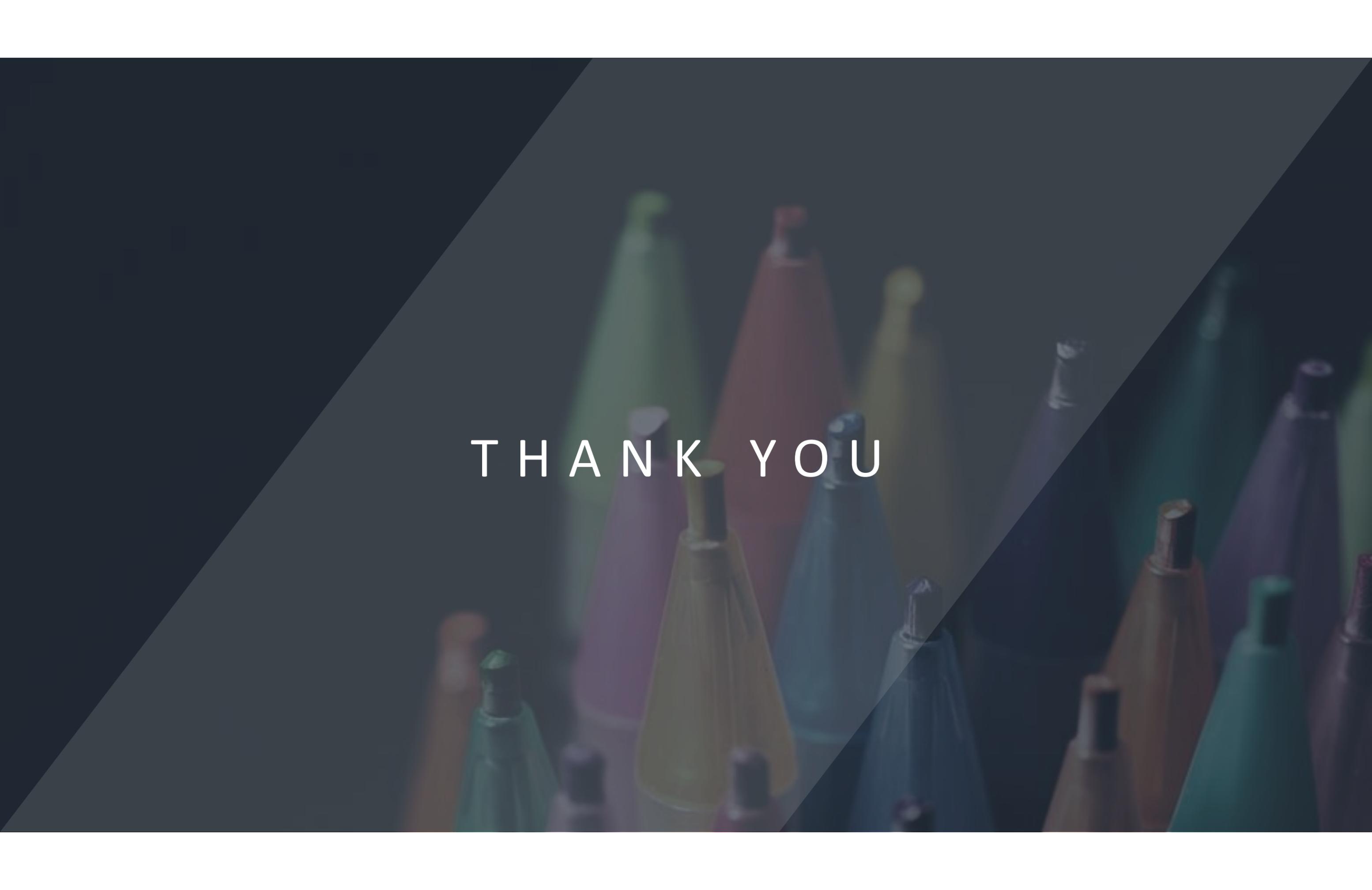
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Designing for Inclusion

Q & A





THANK YOU